



CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA REQUEST

AGENDA OF:	01-17-12	AGENDA REQUEST NO:	VII-A
INITIATED BY:	CATHY HALKA, PLANNER II <i>CHH</i>	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:	TRANSPORTATION & LONG-RANGE PLANNING
PRESENTED BY:	PATRICK WALSH, P.E., DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION & LONG-RANGE PLANNING CATHY HALKA, PLANNER II <i>CHH</i>	DIRECTOR:	PATRICK WALSH, P.E., DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION & LONG-RANGE PLANNING <i>PMW</i>
		ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR (S):	N/A
SUBJECT / PROCEEDING:	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE WORKSHOP		
EXHIBITS:	SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, CHAPTERS 1 THROUGH 5		
CLEARANCES		APPROVAL	
LEGAL:	N/A	ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER:	KAREN GLYNN <i>KG</i>
PURCHASING:	N/A	ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER:	N/A
BUDGET:	N/A	CITY MANAGER:	ALLEN BOGARD <i>Allen Bogard</i>
BUDGET			
EXPENDITURE REQUIRED: \$		N/A	
CURRENT BUDGET: \$		N/A	
ADDITIONAL FUNDING: \$		N/A	
RECOMMENDED ACTION			
Review and discuss proposed revisions to Chapters 1 through 5 of the Comprehensive Plan.			

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In this workshop, City staff will review the Comprehensive Plan Update, a FY12 strategic project, and solicit feedback from City Council on the project approach. The objective of the project is the adoption of proposed revisions to Chapters 1 through 5 of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan Update project was triggered by the City Council's adoption of *Vision 2025 and Guiding Principles* in 2009 and by the release of the 2010 U.S. Census data.

The Comprehensive Plan Update focuses on Chapters 1 through 5 as the first phase of a two-step process with a second phase, updating Chapter 6 (the Land Use Plan), to follow at a later date. The proposed update to Chapters 1 through 4 will focus primarily on factual revisions and expanded descriptions based on U.S. Census and American Community Survey data and other information. Chapter 5 is proposed to be replaced with the contents of *Vision 2025 and Guiding Principles*, which were adopted by City Council in 2009 (Resolution 09-34) with the explicit intent to update the Comprehensive Plan.

City staff conducted an extensive review of the current Chapter 5 (Goals, Objectives and Strategies), and this review revealed several items that are still relevant and are recommended for incorporation into *Vision 2025 and Guiding Principles*. Further, City Council identified additional revisions to Vision 2025 at their 2011 annual fall retreat. The resulting recommended Chapter 5 revisions will preserve policy guidance from the 2005 Comprehensive Plan that remains relevant, emphasize new policy guidance from *Vision 2025*, and incorporate revisions from the City Council retreat. The attached exhibits describe the recommended revisions.

In this workshop, City staff will review the project approach in anticipation of commencing a process for adopting the new Comprehensive Plan. City staff intend on publishing draft revisions to Chapters 1 through 5 on the City's web site during a public review and comment period starting in January 2012. Public hearings will be scheduled at Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council meetings to provide additional opportunities for public feedback on the proposed update. The project schedule anticipates the adoption of the new Comprehensive Plan Chapters 1 through 5 in May 2012.

EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT A:
Summary of Recommended Revisions to Comprehensive Plan

- Chapter 1: DEFINITION OF COMPREHENSIVE PLANS AND MASTER PLANS
 - a. Include information on master plan relationships
- Chapter 2: HISTORY OF SUGAR LAND'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
 - a. Update methodology to reflect current process
- Chapter 3: COMMUNITY PROFILE
 - a. Reorganize text and added details on existing conditions (e.g. annexation, water, wastewater, parks, air quality, neighborhoods, population characteristics)
 - b. Update information with 2010 Census & American Community Survey data
- Chapter 4: DEVELOPMENT CONSTRAINTS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND PROJECTIONS
 - a. Update information on developments: Imperial, Telfair, Lake Pointe, Central Prison Unit
 - b. Update economic profile/projection with 2010 Census / American Community Survey
 - c. Add data from 2011 Land Use Inventory
- Chapter 5: VISION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES
 - a. Replace Goals, Strategies, and Objectives from Chapter 5 with Vision 2025 and Guiding Principles
 - b. Revise Vision 2025 and Guiding Principles based on:
 - i. Staff comparison of Vision 2025 and Chapter 5
 - ii. City Council review at 2011 annual retreat

EXHIBIT B:
Summary of Recommended Revisions to Vision 2025

City Staff Review: Comparison to Chapter 5

1. Add to A7 “adequate supply”
Adequate supply of safe drinking water
2. Add to B4 “attractive”
Clean, well-maintained, *attractive* lakes and waterways that are publicly accessible.
3. Remove from F6 “and”
Maintaining quality neighborhoods ~~and~~ buffered from or blended with adjacent commercial areas and non-residential land uses.
4. Remove from G2 “water taxi”
Effective, intra-city public transportation system linking activity centers: trolley, electric bus, monorail, ~~water taxi~~.
5. Revise G6 to remove “rail” and add “transit,” remove “with relocation of freight rail”
Commuter ~~rail~~ *transit* serving to link Sugar Land to the Greater Houston Metro Area and Fort Bend County / Southwest ~~with relocation of freight rail~~.
6. Add **new statement** as G9
Relocation of freight rail through traffic
7. Add **new statement** as H9 – Recreational Programs
Recreational programs serving the community
8. Add to J2 “and facilities”
Well-designed, well-maintained city infrastructure *and facilities* throughout the city.
9. Add **new statement** as K9 - Financial Health of the City
City demonstrating sound financial management practices and policies including cost-effective service delivery
10. Add **new statement** as K10 – Comprehensive Plan
Comprehensive Plan and associated master plans guide City decision making

City Council Review: 2011 Retreat, Galveston, TX

11. Add “Health and” to A6
Health and building codes promoting highest reasonable standards for safety
12. Add “meeting national and state standards” to A7
Safe drinking water **meeting national and state standards**
13. **Remove statement** C4
~~Support for the faith community~~
14. Add “and respecting” to C5 (now C4)
Celebrating **and respecting** the unique international and inter-cultural community that we have become
15. Add **new statement** as I10
Film and entertainment businesses linked to University of Houston
16. Added “and tax base (60% residential / 40% commercial, retail, office)” to J1
Balanced land use (70% residential/no less than 30% commercial, retail, office) **and tax base (60% residential / 40% commercial, retail, office)** within city

EXHIBIT C:
Recommended Revised Goals and Objectives for Chapter 5

GOAL A	SAFE COMMUNITY
<p>► Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Safest city in the United States2. People feeling safe, secure and comfortable at home, in the neighborhood, at the parks, in commercial areas, and throughout the community3. Informed citizens participating in and taking responsibility for community safety and emergency preparedness4. Rapid, professional and coordinated response to an emergency call for service5. City prepared for all hazards, disaster and post disaster recovery including coordination with local, regional and state resources6. Health and building codes promoting highest reasonable standards for safety7. Adequate supply of safe drinking water meeting national and state standards	

GOAL B	BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY
<p>► Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Attractive, well-designed and well-maintained public buildings, streetscapes incorporating gateways, public spaces and public art throughout the city2. Attractive, well-designed and well-maintained commercial areas and buildings, including beautiful landscapes, and appropriate signage3. Attractive, well-maintained homes4. Clean, well-maintained, attractive lakes and waterways that are publicly accessible5. Reduction/removal of overhead power lines in future development	

GOAL C

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

► Objectives

1. Celebrating America, such as: 4th of July, Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, flying the flag
2. Community respecting and celebrating the history and heritage of Sugar Land and Texas
3. All family generations and cultures feeling welcome and having fun
4. Celebrating and respecting the unique international and inter-cultural community that we have become
5. Residents informed, actively involved and participating in community and civic affairs

GOAL D

ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY

► Objectives

1. City as a leader – model for standards, processes and operations
2. Open green spaces throughout the city
3. Effective stormwater management and drainage system enhancing quality of surface water and protecting neighborhoods
4. Quality wastewater treatment system
5. Water conservation
6. Reduced energy consumption and increased use of renewable resources
7. Convenient, easy, state-of-the-art recycling system with options and incentives
8. Developments, redevelopments and buildings incorporating the concepts of environmental sustainability
9. Improved air quality
10. Reasonable approach and balance with a “return on investments” – economic and/or community benefit

GOAL E

DESTINATION ACTIVITY CENTERS

► Objectives

1. Each destination activity center having positive image and reputation – a sense of place
2. Variety of unique quality features that define each destination activity center
3. Mixed use developments with commercial and multi-family residential elements
4. Pedestrian friendly activity centers connected by alternative transportation modes and trails
5. Major community focal points and regional destinations, such as: Town Center, Brazos River Park, Entertainment District and “Imperial” Area
6. Public open space and parks for people to gather and enjoy; neighborhood to use; and to conduct community events

GOAL F

GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS

► Objectives

1. Strong neighborhood identity and pride
2. Renovated, modernized and well-maintained older housing stock
3. High percentage of owner occupied homes
4. Well-maintained, replaced and up to date neighborhood infrastructure: streets, utilities, sidewalks, street lights and drainage
5. Strong, effective home owner and neighborhood associations maintaining and investing in community common areas, streetscapes and public spaces
6. Maintaining quality neighborhoods buffered from or blended with adjacent commercial areas and non-residential land uses
7. Residents involved in and taking responsibility for making the neighborhood a great place to live and call home
8. Top quality community and neighborhood parks with active and passive areas

GOAL G

SUPERIOR MOBILITY

► Objectives

1. Effective traffic management signal system facilitating predictable, acceptable travel times within Sugar Land
2. Effective intra-city public transportation system linking activity centers: trolley, electric bus, monorail
3. North/south mobility with several corridors
4. Interstate and U.S. highways efficiently moving traffic through and to/from Sugar Land (U.S. 59, Highway 6, 90A)
5. Major corporate airport for businesses and general aviation
6. Commuter transit serving to link Sugar Land to the Greater Houston Metro Area and Fort Bend County / Southwest
7. Pedestrian-friendly community with multi use trails network for bikes and pedestrians connecting neighborhoods and the community
8. Well-designed, well-maintained streets, sidewalks and multi- use trails
9. Relocation of freight rail through traffic

GOAL H

OUTSTANDING CULTURAL ARTS, EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

► Objectives

1. Brazos River Park as a regional destination with water-based activities on the river and lakes; hike and bike trails; innovative, unique venues and activities
2. Variety of cultural art opportunities, programs and venues serving as regional destinations
3. Public art throughout the city
4. Major museums having educational significance
5. Performing Arts Center (large community and small venues) for theater, concerts and entertainment serving as a regional destination
6. Regional, family oriented, professional sports venue
7. Major university campus serving residents, non-residents, and businesses with full range of undergraduate, graduate and post graduate programs
8. Strong relationship and partnership between City of Sugar Land, schools and university
9. Recreational programs serving the community

GOAL I	REGIONAL BUSINESS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
<p>► Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Targeted national and international businesses such as: corporate finance, electronics manufacturing and assembly, energy, regional and national headquarters, bio and nano technology2. State of the art, world class infrastructure and technology to support local businesses3. Business-friendly environment and reputation4. Quality jobs at or above the average income in the community5. Tract II and Prison Property/Newland (300 acres) developed as major business parks with Class A office environment6. Full service convention and conference center targeting the best second tier market7. Major regional state-of-the-art medical and health services center serving the southwest area8. Multiple, high-quality, full and limited service hotels for business travelers and visitors9. Unique, “upscale” retail with upgraded products10. Film and entertainment businesses linked to University of Houston	

GOAL J

BALANCED DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT

► Objectives

1. Balanced land use (70% residential/no less than 30% commercial, retail, office) and tax base (60% residential / 40% commercial, retail, office) within city
2. Well-designed, well-maintained city infrastructure and facilities throughout the city
3. Innovative designs meeting city's development standards and adding value to the surrounding neighborhoods
4. New developments and redevelopments consistent with city vision, comprehensive plan, policies and standards
5. Upgrading or reusing older commercial areas and commercial strip centers
6. Redevelopment uses that are appropriate for different locations and proactive city policies to assist
7. Redevelopment of historic structures into creative uses to showcase the city's history
8. High-quality and well-maintained housing stock throughout the city

GOAL K

COMMUNITY PRIDE IN SUGAR LAND

► Objectives

1. City working in partnership with residents, community organizations, businesses and other government entities
2. People want to live here, businesses want to invest here
3. Successful community events and celebrations bringing people together
4. Being “A Community of Excellence” and recognized as such
5. Residents engaged in civic and community affairs
6. Businesses and residents volunteering and contributing to the Sugar Land community
7. Strong community organizations, charitable organizations and institutions
8. City leadership facilitating and being a catalyst for community pride
9. City demonstrating sound financial management practices and policies including cost-effective service delivery
10. Comprehensive Plan and associated master plans guide City decision making